exchange rate. We have created a situation whereby people have less and less incentives to send their money through illegal channels and that is why our balance of payment has improved very substantially even though our recourse to foreign borrowings has greatly decreased in the last two years. So, we have a multi-pronged strategy to deal with the menace of black money: reduced rates of personal income tax, streamlining, of excise taxation and other indirect taxes form part of that comprehensive strategy. I think, over a period of time, I am confident that you will see that if these reforms are effectively implemented, the hold of black money on our economy will diminish, but I take note of the point hon. Shri Jagesh Desai has made. We cannot relax vigilance the Income-tax Department has to be alert and we shall remain alert.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने मूल उत्तर में यह कहा कि समाचार पत्रों में इन कर प्रस्तावों की की गई आलोचना निराधार है और इससे कर चोरी को कोई बढ़ावा नहीं मिलता. लेकिन मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहती हूं कि आपका यह नया कर प्रस्ताव केवल कर चोरी को ही बढ़ावा नहीं देगा बल्कि ईमानदार करदाता के मुकाबले में कर चोरी करने वाले व्यक्ति को फायदा भी पहुंचाएगा क्योंकि अब आपने अनडिस्क्लोज्ड इन्कम पर जो पेनल्टी रखी थी, वह हटा दी, जो पेनल्टी इन्टरेस्ट उसको देना पड़ता था, वह हटा दिया और केवल आपने 60 परसैंट का फ्लेट रेट कर दिया है. इसके मायने हैं कि 10 वर्षों तक कर चोरी करके कमाए गए पैसे को, बचाए गए पैसे को आदमी किसी भी उत्पादक धंधे में लगा सकता है और उससे कितना ज्यादा फायदा उठाकर, जब वह पकड़ा जाए तो केवल 60 फीसदी कर देकर अपना पिंड छुड़ा सकता है. तो इस चीज से क्या कर चोरी करने वालों को बढ़ावा नहीं मिलेगा कि वे उस पैसे को कर देने के बजाए पहले किसी प्रोडक्टिव कार्य में लगा दें और पकड़े जाने पर केवल 60 फीसदी फ्लेट रेट देकर के अपना पिंड छुड़ा लें? तो आपका यह कहना कि इससे कर चोरी को बढ़ावा नहीं मिलेगा, कैसे सच है?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: The hon. Member has expressed an opinion, I beg to differ with her assessment of the situation because today the maximum marginal rate of income-tax is 40 per cent and what we are going to do is to charge this income which is detected in the course of search and seizure operation at the rate of 60 per cent. While the top marginal income tax rate is 40 per cent, effective rates in most of the cases, once allowance is made for various deductions, is much lower. In fact, effective marginal rate will not exceed, in this country, 30 per cent when you allow for various deductions which are admissible. Sir, 30 per cent to 60 per cent tax does contain a substantial element of penalty and I respectfully submit that this tax rate provides sufficient deterrent. It is not, I think an invitation for people not to pay their taxes.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Are there any criminal proceedings?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I would like to say, wherever prosecutions are required, prosecutions will be launched.

Pension Scheme for Employees of Air India

*483. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY:†

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) wether Government have approved a self-contributory superannuation pension schme for the employees of Air India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Following are the salient features of the Self-contributory Superannuation Pension Scheme of Air India:—

(a) It is a purely self-contributory and self-supporting superannuation

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. Narayanasamy.

spension scheme. For employees who were on the rolls of Air India as on 1.4.1994, Membership of the scheme is optional. However, for new recruits after 1.4.1994, the Scheme would be compulsory.

(b) Air India's contribution to "Self-contributory Superannuation Pension Scheme" for all the employees together, would be restricted to Rs. 100/- only per year. This contribution is necessary for recognition of the scheme by the Income Tax Department and for exemption from income tax.

(c) No additional financial commitment will be made by Air India.

(d) A trust will be created by Air India under a trust deed to administer the scheme. The trust will operate the scheme through the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

(e) Benefits of the Scheme would be available only on superannuation. In the event of resignation and voluntary retirement, the contributions made by the employees till that date would be refunded alongwith interest.

(f) No pension will be given to the employee with less than 15 years service. The benefit will be available on the death while in service and on permanent total disablement while in service.

(g) The rate of pension would vary from 40% (minimum) to 50% (maximum) of the salary of the employee, depending on number of years of continuous service with Air India Ltd.

SHRI V NARAYANSAMY: Mr. Chairman, sir, this is a very good scheme. There has been a consistent demand by the employees of the public sector undertakings as well as corporations that the pension scheme should be implemented by the Government. The hon. Minister has also made an announcement that the Government would come up with a legislation before the House. The hon. Minister has given the salient features of the self-contributory and self-supporting superannuation pension scheme. But I am very sorry to say that the contribution by Air India in respect of its employees is very negligible. It is only about Rs. 100 per annum. I know that it is only a self-contributory pension scheme. But the contribution by Air India should be a little more.

The Second aspect is, if a person voluntarily retires, resigns, from service, the scheme is not applicable and his accounts would be settled. The hon. Minister knows pretty well that except the captains, the other employees in Air India are not getting a lucrative salary. Therefore, most of these employees have to be protected.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this scheme would be made applicable to those employees who voluntarily retire after twenty years. I am asking this because the Minister has put a ban on it. If a person voluntarily retires after twenty years, the scheme is not appliable to him. That is why I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would amend the scheme so that the employees who retire after twenty years of service would also be able to get the benefit.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, as far as the first part of the question of the hon. Member is concerned, it is not only Air India which has this restriction. there are as many as ten public sector undertakings which have this kind of a restriction. This is not particular to any Ministry. It is the Department of Public Enterprises which has given this guideline. According to this guideline, all the public sector undertakings are contributing only this much of money.

As far as the second part of the question of the hon. Member is concerned, at this stage, it is very difficult because it has already taken a lot of time to get this through the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has gone into it twice. The Department of

Public Enterprises has already cleared it. The Ministry of Finance has cleared. This has also been cleared by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The Minister has said that the proposal has been accepted. From when have they started implementing it? That is the moot question which the hon. Minister has to answer. From when have they started implementing it?

Secondly, apart from this scheme, there is a widespread demand from the employees of the various public sector undertakings, including Air India and Indian Airlines, that there should be a regular pension scheme for them as in the case of other Government employees. Whatever contribution they would like to get from the employees, they can get it. I would like to know whether the Government is thinking on this line so that the employees of the different public sector undertakings and corporations can get regular pension like the Central and State Government employees.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: As far as the first part of the question of the hon. Member is concerned, the scheme would be applicable from 1.4.1994. This would be given with retrospective effect. In due course of time, a trust would be created by Air India. Those who are in service as on 1.4.1994 would be given an option. In the case of those who have joined after 1.4.1994, it would be mandatory for them to be a part of this scheme.

As far as the second part of the question of the hon. Member is concerned, it is only for Air India. As far as Indian Airlines is concerned, It had gone to the Indian Airlines Board and the Board has agreed, in principle. The Indian Airlines management is now talking with the Life Insurance Corporation of India. After the L.I.C. clears it, it would come again to the Board of Directors of Indian Airlines. It would then go to the Ministry of Finance and the Department of Public Enterprises. Afterwards, it would come to us and then we will see that it is implemented.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : सभापति जी, पिछले कुछ दिनों से एअर-इंडिया के कार्यकलापों को लेकर काफी चर्चा होती रही है और अखबारों में भी इस संबंध में बहुत सारे समाचार आते रहे हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या एअर-इंडिया के कर्मचारियों के अंदर इतना असंतोष है कि उनमें से बहुतों ने पिछले दो वर्षों के अंदर रिज़ाइन करके दूसरी कंपनियों को ज्वाइन किया है? यदि यह बात सही है तो विगत दो वर्षों के अंदर एअर-इंडिया से कितने लोगों ने त्याग-पत्र देकर दूसरी कंपनियों में सर्विस ज्वाइन की है और इसके कारण क्या हैं, यह भी बताने की कृपा करें।

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: This question is totally different. This relates to a superannuation pension scheme. The question on Air India is totally different.

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: It is not totally different, because Mr. Narayanasamy raised a question regarding that. You are well aware...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: No, there the question is totally with regard to a superannuation pension scheme. it has nothing to do with this....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: No, no, I am not out of context at all. Because he has already raised the question, I want to know from you.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: आप भी अंग्रेज़ी बोल रहे हैं?...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद: पहली दफा आप फिसल गए।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह: सर, जैसा मैंने अनुरोध किया कि यह क्वेश्चन बिल्कुल पेंशन से मुताल्लिक है। बाकी यह एअर-इंडिया से संबंधित नहीं है लेकिन मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि एअर-इंडिया से ज्यादा लोग छोड़ कर नहीं गये हैं इंडियन एअरलाइन्स से अधिकतर पाइलट वैगरह चले गये हैं और मेरे ख्याल में एअर-इंडिया में कोई ज्यादा डिसकंटेंटमेंट नहीं है क्योंकि उनकी अच्छी तनख्वाहें हैं, अच्छी वेजेज़ हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री एक माननीय सदस्य: थोड़ा बहुत है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा: सर, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि यह प्रश्न पेंशन से संबंधित है लेकिन मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि आपके एअर-इंडिया के अंदर शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स और शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति के लिए कोई रिजर्वेशन व्यवस्था है या नहीं? और यदि है तो अब तक कितने शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स,शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइस के कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति किस-किस प्रकार के स्थानों पर की गई है?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Luckily I am ready with this information becasue it relates to Question No. 486.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not questioning that at all, but, still.....

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: So let me reply here only. Sir, the reservation is at the initial stage. Suppose, somebody joins at the initial stage, say, at the clerical level, at that stage it is there. But, after he becomes an officer, there is no reservation. I am happy to say here that in spite of the fact that the total number of employees in Air India is 17,263, out of this the number of Scheduled Castes employees is 3,726, that is, 21.58 per cent. And the number of Scheduled Tribes employees is 1,100, that is 5.79 per cent. So, out of the total number of 17,263 employees, the total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees is 27.38 per cent.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: What is the nature of work?

AN HON. MEMBER: Class IV.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: No, it is not class IV. So, it is 27.38 per cent.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the percentage of officers?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I will come to officers. Let me tell you only about the Commercial Department, because Question No. 486, which will be coming, is with regard to the Commercial Department. I have the figures with me with regard to the Commercial Department. In the Commercial Department, out of the total number of 3,553 employees, the number of Scheduled Castes employees is 654, that is, 18.40 per cent. And the total, including Scheduled Tribes, is 22.8 per cent.

You were talking about officers. Let me tell you, as far as the Commercial Department of Air India is concerned, the percentage of officers, both Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, is 23.5 per cent.

श्री जनार्दन यादव: पिछड़े वर्गों के बारे में बोलिये। क्या किया है। **(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister was generous enough to answer another question. So, you should not ply him with other questions now, please.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, my question has been answered. I should have been allowed to put supplementaries.

दिल्ली में भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम के होटल

*484. **श्री दिग्विजय सिंह:**†
श्री अनन्तराम जाबसवाल:

क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 20 अप्रैल, 1995 के "दैनिक जागरण" में "भारतीय पर्यटन विकास निगम के होटल" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और सरकार भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम के दिल्ली में स्थित होटलों के स्तर में सुधार करने के लिये क्या और कब ठोस और त्वरित कार्यवाही करने पर विचार कर रही है?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SMT. SUKHBANS KAUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

†सभा में यह प्रश्न भी दिग्विजय सिंह द्वारा पूछा गया।